

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 1-23 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 24-46 are new. No new matter is added as a result of the Claim amendments. Claims 24-46 remain pending in the case.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

New Claims 24-46

Claims 24-46 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 24-46 are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Claim 24 recites:

A system for providing service attribute information comprising:

a directory server comprising a hierarchical data store associating a plurality of target entries with service attributes, said hierarchical data store comprising an organization level and a managed role level and further comprising attribute templates defined with respect to services and levels;

in response to a query for a predefined service attribute associated with one of said plurality of target entries, an application for designating said predefined service attribute; and

wherein said directory server, in response to said designating, searching said hierarchical data store for target entries that comprise said predefined service attribute.

For example, Hardy et al (US 6,073,242), hereinafter referred to as Hardy, may disclose an authority server that permits users associated with roles to exercise authority, but Hardy fails to teach or suggest "hierarchical data store comprising an organization level and a managed role level and further comprising attribute

templates defined with respect to services and levels,” as claimed. Hardy merely teaches using roles to group entries, but Hardy fails to teach or suggest searching a hierarchical data store for target entries that comprise predefined service attribute associated with roles, as claimed. Furthermore, Hardy actually teaches away from the claimed limitations of the present invention by teaching “the roles database is optional as the present invention is applicable to the situation where each person authorized to act for an enterprise has equal status and therefore there is no point to distinguishing between the roles,” (Column 12 lines 19-23). The claimed limitations of the present invention rely on roles to group the entries according to service attributes. Roles are essential to the present invention.

Furthermore, Thornton et al (US 6,535,884), hereinafter referred to as Thornton, may purport to disclose a method for searching an entry in a directory server. However, Thornton fails to teach or suggest “creating a nested role by encapsulating a first distinguished name and a second distinguished name wherein the nested role comprises the first identifiable attribute and the second identifiable attribute and can be associated with one or more of the plurality of entries,” as claimed. Nesting roles allows the dynamic creation of new roles based on specific attributes of entries in the directory server. Thornton actually teaches away from the claimed limitations of the present by teaching that roles are only associated with data items of the directory server (Abstract). The

present invention associates roles with other roles thereby creating a nested role, as claimed.

In addition, Schneck et al (US 6,192,362) hereinafter referred to as Schneck, may disclose a method for creating a search form for accessing directory information. In fact, Schneck teaches a user entering search data and creating a search request based on a search format (Column 2 lines 19-27). However, Schneck fails to teach or suggest “creating a nested role by encapsulating a first distinguished name and a second distinguished name wherein the nested role comprises the first identifiable attribute and the second identifiable attribute and can be associated with one or more of the plurality of entries,” as claimed. The claimed limitations of the present invention teach a method of associating roles in a directory server. However Schneck fails to teach associating roles to perform a directory search. Schneck actually teaches away from the claimed limitations of the present invention by suggesting that a search template file be used to perform directory searches (Column 11 lines 36-40). Schneck fails to teach or suggest grouping roles to perform a directory search, as claimed.

For the above-mentioned reasons, allowance of Claims 24-46 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION


In light of the above listed remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 24-46 overcome the rejections and objections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 24-46 is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/12, 2003

  
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